(e) Implementation of the provisions of the M.V. Act, 1988 is not expected to result in any overall increase in prices as any possible increase due to requirement of some additions of components to the vehicles would get offset due to savings by reducing in breakdowns, injuries fatalities, road-damage and incidence of diseases connected with pollution. There should also be savings in fuel consumptions.

Pay scales of the teachers of K.V.S. and Navodaya Vidyalayas compared to those in States

984. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay scales of different categories of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas compare unfavourably with those in some of the States; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to bring these scales at par with those in the States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Government of India announced on 12th August, 1987 the revised pay-scales for school teachers of union territories and various central autonomous bodies. While announcing these pay scales, the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, report of the Cattopadhyaya Commission and the postulates of National Education Policy were kept in view. The pay scale for school teachers working under State Governments vary from State to State. Hence, it is not possible to draw an exact comparison with the pay-scale prescribed by the various State Governments.

Sanctioning of Sethu Samundram Canal Project

985. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of the expert committee on Sethu Samundram Canal Project; and

(b) whether Government are considering sanctioning of this project in view of the appearance of new dimension of strategic phenomenon in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Testing of Missile by Pakistan

986. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th July, 1989 wherein it has been stated that Pakistan Missiles with 10 Km. range has been tested;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR

SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has tested an indigenously developed air-to-air missile with a range of 10 Kms on June 21st.

(c) Government keep under constant review the developments with a bearing on India's security and take all necessary counter-measures.

Merger of Hotel Corporation of India with I.T.D.C.

987. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2268 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the modalities of merger of Hotel Corporation of India with I.T.D.C. have been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The modalities of the merger of Hotel Corporation of India with ITDC are still under examination of the Government. In view of the complexities of the issues involved, no time frame can be specified about arriving at a final decision.

Financial condition of Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

988. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. is in great financial distress;

(b) if so, what are the latest details in this regard; and

(c) whether Govt. have made any attempts to improve its performance; if so, what are the details with results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) CSL is facing some financial difficulties on account of acute cash flow position caused by unremunerative prices fixed for the vessels and heavy interest liability on the loans advanced to the Shipyard. Various remedial measures for improving the financial health of the Company including revision of pricing formula, restructurng the capital base, interest holiday, moratorium on all loans upto 31.3.89, reimbursement of cash losses, import duty concessions, increasing the cash credit limit with the State Bank, etc. are under examination.

CIA's statement regarding 'Agni'

989. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reoprted CIA's statement that "Agni" was not indigenous but a product of technology transferred by the U.S.A. and West Germany; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has repeatedly asserted that the Agni